

Feb 21, 2023

Good afternoon ranking members and members of the committee. Thank you for your time and attention. My name is Denise Scott and I'm here in support of House Bill 6663. I'm a resident of Bridgeport, and the Fairfield County parent advocate with ConnCAN. I have the honor to be a member of the special education resource team working in the Bridgeport public schools.

It is essential to recognize and protect the rights of families who do not speak English, particularly when it comes to their children's education. Access to information and participation in the decision-making process are critical components of a parent's ability to advocate for their child's educational needs. Without the proper language resources and support, these families may encounter significant barriers to positively engage with schools and the education system.

A parents' bill of rights for families that do not speak English would help to ensure that these families have access to the information they need to make informed decisions about their child's educational experience. This bill of rights would also help to ensure that language services are provided, such as interpretation and translation services, to ensure that families can fully participate in the education system.

By establishing a parents' bill of rights for families that don't speak English, we can help to create a more equitable education system that values diversity and empowers families to be active participants in their child's education. This would ultimately benefit not only these families but also the broader community by promoting greater academic success and social mobility for all children. Simply put, inclusion and equity would be truly honored.

With HB 6663, Connecticut can now show our families from all linguistic backgrounds that in this state, **ALL STUDENTS WILL BE SET UP TO THRIVE. SET UP FOR SUCCESS.** The time is now to ensure the success of all communities across Connecticut. To invest in equitable education. To close the achievement gap.

Thank you all again for your time and attention. My contact information is added to this letter if you have any further questions.

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